

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (*Currently Amended*): A carbon fiber felt comprising:  
a carbon fiber aggregate, and a binder resin to bond the carbon fiber constituting said aggregate, wherein the felt contains a fire resistant agent comprising a silicone compound and an inorganic oxide[[,]] ;

the silicone compound ~~comprises~~ comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of an organosiloxane and a silane[[,]] ; ~~and~~

the silicone compound having at least one functional group selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, and an alkoxy group, and

the a proportion of the fire resistant agent is 1 to 30 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the carbon fiber and 1 to 70 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the binder resin, respectively.

2. (*Currently Amended*): ~~A felt according to~~ The carbon fiber felt of claim 1, wherein the binder resin comprises a thermosetting resin.

3.-4. (*Cancelled*).

5. (*Currently Amended*): ~~A felt according to~~ The carbon fiber felt of claim 1, wherein the silicone compound comprises a silicone compound having at least two reactive functional groups.

6.-8. (*Cancelled*).

9. (*Currently Amended*): ~~A felt according to~~ The carbon fiber felt of claim 1, wherein the proportion of the binder resin is 1 to 50 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of

~~the carbon fiber, and the proportion of the fire resistant agent is 1 to 70 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the binder resin.~~

10. (*Currently Amended*): A felt according to The carbon fiber felt of claim 1, wherein the binder resin contains the fire resistant agent.

11. (*Currently Amended*): A felt according to The carbon fiber felt of claim 1, wherein the carbon fiber comprises a fine carbon fiber.

12. (*Currently Amended*): A felt according to The carbon fiber felt of claim 1, wherein the mean diameter of the carbon fiber is 0.5 to 2 $\mu$ m.

13. (*Currently Amended*): A felt according to The carbon fiber felt of claim 1, wherein the carbon fiber comprises a pitch-based carbon fiber.

14. (*Currently Amended*): A felt according to The carbon fiber felt of claim 1, wherein the carbon fiber comprises an anisotropic carbon fiber.

15. (*Currently Amended*): A felt according to The carbon fiber felt of claim 1, which comprises a web of the carbon fiber and a thermosetting resin for bonding the carbon fiber constituting said web, wherein the carbon fiber comprises an anisotropic pitch-based carbon fiber having a mean diameter of 0.5 to 5 $\mu$ m and a mean length of 1 to 15mm; and the felt contains the fire resistant agent, in a proportion of 1.5 to 25 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the carbon fiber.

16. (*Currently Amended*): A felt according to The carbon fiber felt of claim 15, wherein the mean diameter of the carbon fiber is 0.5 to 2 $\mu$ m, the thermosetting resin comprises at least a phenol-series resin, and the silicone compound comprises the silicone compound having a reactive group; and the felt contains the fire resistant agent in a proportion of 2 to 20 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the carbon fiber.

17. (*Original*): A heat insulating material formed by the carbon fiber felt recited in claim 1.

18.-19. *(Cancelled)*.